

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fireplace including an air filtration system, the fireplace comprising:
 - an enclosure;
 - at least one panel positioned relative to the enclosure to form a plenum system defining an air passage;
 - a HEPA filter disposed within the plenum system; and
 - a blower disposed within the plenum system to move air through the air passage, wherein the blower causes the air to pass through the HEPA filter to remove airborne contaminants from the air.
2. The fireplace of claim 1, further including a carbon filter.
3. The fireplace of claim 1, further including a second air filtration system disposed within the plenum system.
4. The fireplace of claim 3, wherein the second air filtration system includes an ion generator.
5. The fireplace of claim 1, further comprising means for sterilizing the air.
6. The fireplace of claim 1, further comprising means for warning an end of useful life for the HEPA filter.
7. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the fireplace is a combustible gas fireplace.
8. A fireplace including an air filtration system, the fireplace comprising:
 - an enclosure;
 - at least one panel positioned relative to the enclosure to form a plenum system defining an air passage;
 - a first filtration system disposed within the plenum system;

a second filtration system disposed within the plenum system; and
a blower disposed within the plenum system to move air through the air passage,
wherein the blower causes the air to pass through the first and second filtration systems,
and wherein the first and second filtration systems remove airborne contaminants from
the air.

9. The fireplace of claim 8, wherein the first filtration system includes a HEPA
filter.

10. The fireplace of claim 8, wherein the first filtration system includes carbon to
remove airborne contaminants.

11. The fireplace of claim 8, further comprising a grill covering an air intake defined
by the plenum system, wherein the first filtration system is positioned adjacent the grill.

12. The fireplace of claim 8, wherein the second filtration system includes an ion
generator.

13. The fireplace of claim 8, wherein the plenum system includes a channeled
system of passages positioned above the enclosure to slow a flow of the air and allow
heat to be transferred from the enclosure to the air flowing through the channeled
system of passages, thereby sterilizing the air.

14. The fireplace of claim 8, further comprising means for sterilizing the air.

15. A fireplace including an air sterilization system, the fireplace comprising:
an enclosure;
at least one panel positioned relative to the enclosure to form a plenum system
defining an air passage;

a blower disposed within the plenum system to move air through the air passage; and

an air sterilization system disposed within the air passage for sterilizing the air passing through the plenum system.

16. The fireplace of claim 15, wherein the air sterilization system includes a plurality of panels defining a channeled system of passages positioned above the enclosure and forming a portion of the plenum system, wherein the channeled system of passages slows the air as the air moves through the channeled system of passages, thereby heating the air and sterilizing airborne contaminants contained in the air.

17. The fireplace of claim 15, wherein the air sterilization system includes an ultraviolet system disposed within the plenum system to sterilize the air.

18. The fireplace of claim 15, further including means for filtering the air.

19. The fireplace of claim 15, further comprising an automatic initiation sensor for automatically activating the air sterilization system.

20. A fireplace including an air sterilization system, the fireplace comprising:
an enclosure;
at least one panel positioned relative to the enclosure to form a plenum system defining an air passage;
an ultraviolet system disposed within the plenum system, the ultraviolet system including at least one ultraviolet light bulb configured to emit ultraviolet light; and
a blower disposed within the plenum system to move air through the air passage and adjacent the ultraviolet system, wherein the ultraviolet light emitted by the ultraviolet system sterilizes airborne contaminants contained in the air.

21. A method for filtering air passing through a plenum system of a fireplace, the method comprising steps of:

providing a first filtration system including a HEPA filter;

positioning the first filtration system in the plenum system;

providing a second filtration system including an ion generator;

positioning the second filtration system in the plenum system;

passing air through the first filtration system to remove airborne contaminants in the air; and

dispersing negative ions into the air with the second filtration system to capture airborne contaminants.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising a step of generating an alarm after reaching an end of useful life for the first filtration system.

23. A method for sterilizing air passing through a plenum system of a fireplace, the method comprising steps of:

disposing an ultraviolet system in the plenum system; and

passing air through the plenum system and adjacent the ultraviolet system to sterilize the air.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising steps of:

providing a channel system defining a channeled system of passages coupled to the plenum system, wherein the channeled system of passages are configured to slow the air passing through the channeled system of passages;

positioning the channeled system of passages adjacent an enclosure of the fireplace; and

passing air through the plurality of passages to slow and heat the air, thereby further sterilizing the air.

25. A fireplace including an air filtration system and an air sterilization system, the fireplace comprising:

an enclosure;

at least one panel positioned relative to the enclosure to form a plenum system defining an air passage;

means for filtering air circulated through the air passage; and

means for sterilizing the air circulated through the air passage.